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INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4666
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 8921
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 4791
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA J5 SEOUL KOR PRIORITY
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMUSFK SEOUL KOR PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 001688

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [RS](#) [GG](#)
SUBJECT: ROKG AWAITING RUSSIAN SIGNAL ON RECOGNITION OF
SOUTH OSSETIA AND ABKHAZIA

REF: STATE 90978

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Yun. Reasons 1.4(b/d)

11. (C) In reply to Dep Pol M/C's August 25 presentation of reftel points regarding USG opposition to possible moves by the Russian Federation to recognize the independence of the separatist regions of South Ossetia and/or Abkhazia, Kim Eun-joong, Director-General, European Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), said that the ROKG had not yet seen any indications that Russia was planning such steps. If Russia were to signal such steps in the Un or elsewhere, which it could do as "part of its reaction to recognition of Kosovo's independence," the ROK would meet internally to develop a position on the matter. Kim took on board reftel points on the inapplicability of the Kosovo example, saying that the would explain the USG position on the matter to ROKG colleagues.
VERSHBOW